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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy

December 2023 Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) newsletter. Here we will be providing you with regular updates, key meetings and workshops you don't want to miss and anything relating to nature recovery.

Stay tuned as we begin our LNRS journey.

What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a key component of the Environment Act 2021. Its aim is to set priorities for nature recovery in the country. The LNRS will include the following:

Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

- A description of biodiversity for our strategy area, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity in the strategy area
- Prioritise areas and species for recovering or enhancing biodiversity in the strategy area
- Identify priorities for recovery or enhancing biodiversity in the strategy area

Local Habitat Map - to identify

- National conservation sites in the strategy area
- Nature reserves in the strategy area
- Other areas that are important for biodiversity and nature recovery
- Areas where biodiversity could make a contribution to other environmental benefits.

Meet the Production Team

We have appointed two consultants to act as the Strategy Production Team providing authoring of the strategy and collating and analysing biodiversity data.

Land Use Consultants - Authorship

LUC is an award-winning environmental consultancy that aims to make a difference. With nearly 60 years of experience, we want to make an impact: delivering better futures for nature, people, and places.

Our holistic services support clients in tackling complex land use problems on projects at every scale. . We're leading the way in driving lasting and positive change.

The LUC team will be authoring the LNRS, working collaboratively with the Steering Group and Development Team to produce a locally-led LNRS. The LUC team comprises strategic ecologists, landscape managers and agri-environment specialists. Together, we bring extensive experience in landscape-scale nature recovery. We're excited to be apart of its development.

Sofie Swindlehurst, Associate Director of Ecology said: "LUC is excited to help develop the LNRS approach to provide practical actions to deliver nature recovery and wider environmental and societal benefits through nature-based solutions."

Natural Capital Solutions - GIS Support

Natural Capital Solutions is a leading environmental consultancy that is concerned with revealing and enhancing the benefits that the natural environment delivers people. Our aim is to produce scientifically driven, robust evidence, so clients are able to make informed decisions about how best to manage the natural environment. We have a wealth of experience in ecology, environmental economics, spatial mapping, data analysis and modelling, web development and stakeholder engagement.

Natural Capital Solutions are excited to be working on the LNRS in collaboration with a team of other organisations. We will be providing mapping support – mapping areas that are impotent for nature across the area and identifying the best opportunities to enhance it.

We will do this by gathering together data on biodiversity, the natural environment and people, analysing impacts and benefits, and identifying opportunities to maintain, restore and recover nature and the benefits that it provides to people.

Natural Cambridgeshire - Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

Natural Cambridgeshire is supporting the stakeholder engagement and communication workstream. They plan to engage with a diversity of stakeholders and build on the conversations and plans for biodiversity action and nature recovery which are already taking place across the county. The ambition for' more, better, bigger, more and more joined up' land for nature were articulated in Natural Cambridgeshire's vision for 'doubling nature' and led to the creation of priority landscapes based around locally significant habitats. Engagement with landowners and farmers will be key to gathering opportunities for integrating new habitats for nature with agricultural production and the operations of farm businesses across the county.

Ahead of the formal launch of the LNRS, Natural Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Council held meetings with the members and officers of each local authority to listen to their aspirations and plans for nature recovery and connecting people with nature in their areas. They plan to continue and widen this dialogue to ensure that people in all areas have a voice in the development of the LNRS.

Update and Next Steps

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LNRS will be developed as an evidence based, locally led and collaborative approach. The area has already adopted a 'Doubling Nature' ambition that responds to the existing deficit of rich wildlife areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the national biodiversity decline.

In the new year we will be holding a series of workshops and meetings to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. If you wish to be involved in these workshops and meeting, please do not hesitate to get in contact - localnaturerecoverystrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

For more regular updates please visit our website to find out more infomation on our LNRS.

General Information

Identifying and agreeing priorities and potential measures within the LNRS

Further advice has been released by Defra, with the intention to help responsible authorities identify and agree 'priorities' and 'potential measures' in their LNRS. If you are interested in reading the full guidance, get in contact.

Landscape Recovery: Sharing the successful second round projects

A blog released by Defra's Farming and Countryside programme, shares details on the successful 34 projects in the second round of Landscape Recovery . This £25m fund will focus on delivering environmental benefits in harmony with food production. Read the full blog here.

Incorporating LNRS when planning for Biodiversity Net Gain

A blog released by Defra's Land Use Policy Team and shares details on how BNG can help deliver on the nature recovery opportunities that will be identified in the LNRS. By agreeing evidence-based locations to expand and connect existing habitat and provide wider environmental benefits. Read the full blog here.

Further guidance release on Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. On 29th November, the long awaited guidance for developers, land managers and local planning authorities were released. Read each step by step guidance here.

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